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the Registrar's permission. The first two banks have since formally started work on 27th May 1929 and 4th April 1929 respectively. The reasons for the delay are said to be that in Chengam the prime mover had failed to secure debentures and even now there is no certainty of his hopes materializing. The future of the bank at Bhavani is not bright owing to factions. As regards the third bank, no steps are being taken to start it as there are no prospects of its successful working. The answer to clause (*a*) above explains how these banks happened to be registered.

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Will the hon. the Minister be pleased to give the names of the Deputy Registrars who registered the banks at Chengam, Bhavani and Tinnevelly ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" Notice, Sir."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—" Has the hon. Minister satisfied himself that these banks were not started merely on communal grounds instead of blaming the people of the locality for not carrying on the work ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar :—" I am not aware of that."

Reduction in the rate of interest on loans to land mortgage banks, etc.

* 132 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government have decided to reduce the rate of interest on their loans to land mortgage banks and building societies ?

A.—The matter is still under consideration.

Fisheries

Transfer of the control of fish-curing yards to the Government of India.

* 133 *Q.*—Dr. B. S. Mallayya : Will the hon the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any and if so what steps to hand over the management of the fish-curing yards to the Government of India ?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Investigation of plankton, etc., on an all-India basis.

* 134 *Q.*—Dr. B. S. Mallayya : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government have addressed the Central Government in the matter of conducting the investigation of plankton, the migration and the oil contents, mackerels, etc., on an all-India basis ?

A.—No.

Abolition of the post of Socio-Economic Sub-Assistant in the Fisheries department.

* 135 *Q.*—Mr. Mahmud Schamnad : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the post of the Socio-Economic Sub-Assistant in the Fisheries department has been abolished ; and

(*b*) who is entrusted with those duties now and whether Government are satisfied that he possesses the necessary qualifications?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The post of Socio-Economic Sub-Assistant has not been abolished but his designation has been altered to Inspector of Fisheries. Socio-economic work among fishermen in the Malabar and South Kanara districts is now attended to by this Inspector and two other Inspectors as part of their regular duties. The Government have no reason to believe that these Inspectors do not possess the necessary qualifications for the performance of duties assigned to them.

Appointment of an officer for organizing Fisheries schools.

*136 Q.—Mr. MAHMUD SCHAMNAD: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have considered the necessity of employing a separate officer trained in teaching for the purpose of organizing and examining all the Fisheries schools of the West Coast; and

(*b*) whether they propose to appoint another officer to look after the economic condition, co-operative societies and such other work of the fisher-folk?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The answer is in the negative.

Industries

Purchase of 23 power drills by the Agricultural and Industrial Engineering department.

*137 Q.—Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that 23 power drills for boring have been purchased by the Agricultural and Industrial Engineering department;

(*b*) the cost of each power drill and the cost of maintaining each;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the use of power drills has so far proved a failure;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) be in the affirmative, why about 8 power drills have recently been purchased by the department; and

(*e*) whether the Government will lay on the table a report about the results achieved so far?

A.—(*a*) The Industrial Engineering section of the Department of Industries has a stock of 20 power drills inclusive of 8 purchased recently. The Agricultural Department has no power drills.

(*b*) The cost of each power drill is about £830, and the cost of maintaining a drill is about Rs. 100 per month.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Does not arise.

(*e*) An account of the boring operations conducted by the department will be found in the annual administration reports.

Mr. C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR:—"May I know how many of these drills have been at work actually?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR:—"All the twenty."